

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00977 01 OF 02 240251Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02

PRS-01 H-02 L-03 AID-05 SCSE-00 SCA-01 /071 W

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P R 232324Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2581

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MEXICO 0977

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TAGS: SNAR, MX, CASC

SUBJECT: MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON SPEAKS ON NARCOTICS
AND U.S. PRISONERS IN MEXICO

REF: MEXICO 880 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: JANUARY 23 EXCELSIOR FRONT-PAGED YET ANOTHER
(REFTEL) IN ITS SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE MEXICO/US NARCOTICS
PROBLEM BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ARMANDO VARGAS. THE
STORY IS BASED ON AN INTERVIEW WITH MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO
WASHINGTON JOSE JUAN DE OLLOQUI IN WHICH THE AMBASSADOR DIS-
CUSSED1 (A) THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM, CLAIMING THAT GOM SPENDS
PROPORTIONATELY MORE OF ITS BUDGET ON THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN
THAN DOES THE USG; AND (B) U.S. PRISONERS IN MEXICO SAYING,
AS HE HAS BEFORE, THAT USG CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS, AND
MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN HARD PROSECUTION OF THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC
AND SOFT TREATMENT FOR OFFENDERS. TEXT FOLLOWS BELOW.
END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE WE ARE HELPING A NEIGHBOR TO SOLVE ITS
PROBLEM UNQUOTE QUOTE AGAINST DRUGS, MEXICO SPENDS MORE THAN
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 00977 01 OF 02 240251Z

U.S. UNQUOTE QUOTE NOW WE'D LIKE THIS COOPERATION IN SOME

OF OUR OWN AFFAIRS (PROBLEMS), UNQUOTE AMBASSADOR JOSE JUAN DE OLLOQUI SAID IN WASHINGTON. BY ARMANDO VARGAS EXCELSIOR CORRESPONDENT WASHINGTON, D.C., 22 JANUARY. QUOTE MEXICO DEDICATES A MUCH GREATER PROPORTION OF ITS BUDGET TO COMBATTING DRUGS THAN DOES THE UNITED STATES, UNQUOTE THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE WHITE HOUSE, JOSE JUAN DE OLLOQUI, SAID HERE YESTERDAY. QUOTE WE ARE ENERGETICALLY HELPING A NEIGHBOR TO SOLVE ITS PROBLEM, UNQUOTE HE STATED. QUOTE I BELIEVE THAT NO COUNTRY CAN BOAST OF HAVING DONE MORE, COOPERATING IN THE ELIMINATION OF THE PROBLEM OF A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. NOW WE WOULD LIKE THIS (SAME) COOPERATION IN SOME OF OUR OWN AFFAIRS (PROBLEMS). UNQUOTE. DE OLLOQUI SPOKE CONCERNING THE PROBLEM OF THE DRUG TRAFFIC AND THE IMPRISONMENT IN MEXICAN JAILS OF HUNDREDS OF U.S. CITIZENS CHARGED WITH DRUG-RELATED CRIMES, (THE LATTER) IN RELATION TO A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN AIMED AT PRESSURING PRESIDENT GERALD FORD TO ASSUME A HARD LINE VIS-A-VIS MEXICO. ON THE ONE HAND THE WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT WANTS MEXICO TO INCREASE ITS EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE DRUG TRAFFIC. ON THE OTHER, SEVERAL LEGISLATORS--ESPECIALLY FROM CALIFORNIA--, WANT THE U.S. CITIZENS CAPTURED FOR ILLEGAL TRANSPORTATION OF DRUGS TO BE TREATED WELL IN MEXICO.

CONGRESSMAN BARRY GOLDWATER, JR., SON OF THE WELL-KNOWN REPUBLICAN SENATOR FROM ARIZONA, TODAY LAUNCHED NEW ATTACKS AGAINST THE MEXICAN SYSTEM OF JUSTICE, (CHARGING IT) WITH SUPPOSED BAD TREATMENT OF U.S. CITIZENS IMPRISONED HERE FOR TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS. GOLDWATER, JR. USED THE SAME ARGUMENTS THAT HAD BEEN REPEATED BY HIS CONGRESSIONAL COLLEAGUE FROM CALIFORNIA, PETE STARK, IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN SEVERAL PRESS CONFERENCES.

QUOTE THE AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS U.S. SOCIETY IN GENERAL, MUST DECIDE WHAT THEY WANT: (EITHER) THAT WE COOPERATE WITH THEM AS WE ARE DOING IN ORDER TO ERADICATE THE ILLEGAL TRAFFIC AND USE OF DRUGS, OR THAT WE BE INDULGENT WITH THE CRIMINALS, UNQUOTE SAID DE OLLOQUI.

QUOTE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RECONCILE THESE TWO DEMANDS, UNQUOTE HE SAID.

QUOTE NEITHER OUR PRISONS, NOR THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES, NOR THOSE OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY ARE PLACES OF RECREATION. MOREOVER, MEXICO MAY BOAST OF HAVING ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE CRIMINAL, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MEXICO 00977 01 OF 02 240251Z

UNQUOTE HE ADDED.

THE AMBASSADOR MAINTAINED THAT PROPORTIONATELY, MEXICO DEDICATES A LARGER PORTION OF ITS BUDGET TO COMBATTING DRUGS, ALTHOUGH IT HAS ONLY 10,000 DRUG (HEROIN) ADDICTS WHEREAS IN THE UNITED STATES THERE ARE 250,000 TO 500,000 DRUG (HEROIN) ADDICTS.

QUOTE BUT THERE ARE CLEAR LIMITS TO WHAT MAY BE DONE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST NARCOTICS, BY ATTACKING THE SOURCE OF

PRODUCTION, UNQUOTE HE ADDED.

THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT QUOTE MORE MUST BE DONE IN THE NATION IN WHICH THE DEMAND FOR DRUGS EXISTS. UNQUOTE.

QUOTE IT IS AN ECONOMIC LAW THAT THE DEMAND CREATES THE SUPPLY. AND IF ONLY THE SUPPLY IS REDUCED AND NOT THE DEMAND, THE PRICE OF THE DRUG WILL SIMPLY BE RAISED MAKING IT MORE ATTRACTIVE TO THE PRODUCER AND FOR THE MAFIR WHICH DISTRIBUTES IT. UNQUOTE.

QUOTE THE SUBCULTURE WHICH SUSTAINS ITSELF WITH THE USE OF HEROIC DRUGS AND MARIJUANA, AS WELL AS THE LAWS WHICH SOFTEN THE PENALTIES FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF THE LATTER, MUST HAVE UNFAVORABLE REPERCUSSIONS IN THE EFFORTS MADE TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION, HE ADDED.

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00977 02 OF 02 240151Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2582

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MEXICO 0977

IN CALIFORNIA AND ALASKA THE USE OF MARIJUANA HAS BEEN MADE LEGITIMATE. THERE ARE STRONG PRESSURE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER STATES TO DECREASE THE POWER OF THE LAWS WHICH PUNISH THE USE OF THOSE DRUGS.

QUOTE IT MUST BE NOTED, UNQUOTE SAID THE AMBASSADOR, QUOTE THAT IT IS NOT, NOR CAN IT BE, THE FUNCTION OF MEXICO TO INTERVENE EITHER IN THE REPRESSION OF THE MASSIVE CONSUMPTION OF DRUGS IN THE UNITED STATES OR OF THE AMERICAN MAFIA WHICH HANDLES THE DISTRIBUTION. OBVIOUSLY THIS ACTION IS STRICTLY RESERVED TO THE U.S. AUTHORITIES. UNQUOTE

REFERRING TO THE U.S. CITIZENS IMPRISONED IN MEXICO, WHOSE NUMBER IS ESTIMATED TO BE 550, DE OLLOQUI SAID: QUOTE TO THE

EXTENT THAT SUCCESS IS ACHIEVED IN COMBATting THE CONSUMPTION OF DRUGS, PROBABLY THE CAPTURE OF CRIMINALS WILL INCREASE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS IN MEXICAN JAILS, WHOSE MAINTENANCE WILL PLACE A BURDEN ON THE BUDGET OF OUR COUNTRY. ONE WAY TO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS, WOULD BE THAT THE NUMBER OF TRAFFICKERS AND ADDICTS DECREASE.
UNQUOTE

QUOTE WITH RESPECT TO THE BAD TREATMENT WHICH THE PRISONERS ARE ALLEGED HAVE SUFFERED, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF MEXICO TO ADVISE IMMEDIATELY THE DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARREST OF U.S. CITIZENS, IN ORDER TO PREVENT THIS SITUATION. THOSE AUTHORITIES RECEIVE ALL KINDS OF ASSISTANCE IN INTERVIEWING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 00977 02 OF 02 240151Z

THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND IN ASSURING THAT THE JUDICIAL PROCESS IS CARRIED OUT.

QUOTE ON THE OTHER HAND, WHOEVER TRAVELS TO ANOTHER COUNTRY MUST OBSERVE ITS LAWS, AND THERE IS A LEGAL AXIOM WHICH SAYS THAT IGNORANCE OF THE LAWS EXEMPTS NONE FROM OBSERVING THEM.

QUOTE EVERY PERSON IN MEXICO ENJOYS THE PROTECTION OF THE LAW, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF CREED, SOCIAL CLASS OR NATIONALITY. AND THERE EXISTS THE WRIT OF QUOTE AMPARO UNQUOTE WHICH NOT ONLY TENDS TO REMEDY BUT ALSO TO PREVENT ANY VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF A PERSON. THIS RECOURSE, FROM A LEGAL POINT OF VIEW, IS MUCH MORE COMPLETE THAN THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS OF THE UNITED STATES. UNQUOTE
END TEXT

3. COMMENT TO FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
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